be the whole profit or advantage which the said officers shall enjoy during their continuance in such offices respectively; and it shall be, and it is hereby declared to be, a misdemeanour for any such officer to accept for his own use, in the discharge of his office, any present, gift, donation, gratuity, or reward, pecuniary or otherwise, whatsoever, or to trade or traffic for his own benefit, or for the benefit of any other person or persons whatever, &c., &c."

Acceptance of gratuities a misdemeanour.

Passage-money fixed.

RESOLUTION.—To be communicated to all Departments and all Heads of Offices under the several Departments of the Secretariat for information and guidance.

Regulations as to the receipt of presents, supplies, transport, and free quarters from Native States by Political Officers and their subordinates.

CIRCULAR.

No. 2323.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 10th April 1891.

The Governor in Council has been recently considering whether any addition to the standing orders regarding the acceptance of presents by public servants is required. A summary of the law and rules laid down on the subject was published in Government Resolution No. 2271, General Department, dated the 25th of July 1876, circulated with Political Department Circular No. 5555, dated the 4th of September 1890. In the rules then published an exemption is made in favour of "the receipt of a few flowers or fruits and articles of inappreciable value, although even such trifling presents should be discouraged": and a Political officer of high standing has recently suggested that this exemption should be further limited to fruits or flowers locally grown, and a prohibition against the regular daily receipt of even such fruits inserted. On the whole, however, the Governor in Council is not disposed to alter the rule, but to recall attention to it and to the spirit which underlies it. The spirit of the orders of Government is to discourage the receipt of all presents, and only to permit the receipt of occasional offerings of fruit or flowers where such offerings cannot be rejected without causing offence. At the same time the Governor in Council thinks that the time has come, when every ruler of a Native State might be furnished with a copy of the orders of Government, and this Resolution may be given accordingly. A copy should also be furnished to every officer in the Political Department of this Government.

Prohibition of the receipt of presents.

2. The occasion may be suitably taken to call attention to other standing orders of a similar character. Government Circular No. 3336, dated the 31st of May 1873, repeated in Circular No. 5713, dated the 7th of September 1887, ordered Political officers to pay without fail for all supplies and transport furnished to them by Native States. Where an officer must depend on the assistance of the Darbar for his supplies, he must request the Darbar to appoint dealers from whom the articles required can be procured for proper payment. It is to be understood that grass, or fodder, or free supplies for the table of officers staying in State bungalows for however short a time are absolutely and expressly prohibited. In any case where a Political officer visits the capital of a Native State in the course of his tour he is bound to supply himself with all that he requires. In the case of rapid journeys occasionally undertaken for special service where the officer's own transport is obviously insufficient, and no hired transport can be obtained, the Darbar may occasionally lend a carriage. An absolute prohibition to use such means, where no other means are procurable,

Prohibition of receipt of supplies or transport.

might cause injury to the public service: but in future Government desire that, just as in the case of the sale of horses to a Darbar, the fact should be specially reported to them. The use of any Darbar carriage will thus be restricted to the rarest occasions and to the narrowest limits; and officers will under no circumstances be allowed to live in State bungalows at the cost of the Darbar for their supplies.

Prohibition in regard to furniture.

3. The furnishing of residences at the cost of Darbars was prohibited by Government Resolution No. 729, dated the 10th of February 1876. By Circular No. 5977, dated 16th September 1887, the subordinates of Political Agents are forbidden to receive free quarters, and all orders that apply to Political officers are now declared to have equal application to their subordinates. It is clear that in Native States where dharmsalas or other places for the convenience of the Agency servants are not available, permission when on tour to occupy other quarters need not be refused. What is required is to secure as far as possible the independence of British officers and their subordinates, and therefore every Political Agent must be personally held responsible that the spirit of these orders is duly observed. Government are confident that the rulers of Native States will not regard the enforcement of these orders as any act of discourtesy, but rather will consider it an act of necessary courtesy to Government to assist it in the execution of its declared policy, which is mainly devised in the interests of the Native States themselves.

Reiteration of the prohibition of the use of Darbar carriages by Political Officers.

Commission agents of Native States not to be recognised by Political Officers as having any status.

CIRCULAR.

No. 7552 OF 1894.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 4th December 1894.

The attention of all Political Officers is invited to Circular No. 2323, dated the 10th April 1891, on the subject of the use by Government officials of Darbar carriages, &c. The Governor in Council has reason to believe that a practice is being introduced—if it has not become established—of the agents of Chiefs meeting Political Officers on their arrival in Bombay, with an offer from the Darbar they profess to represent of the use of a carriage. His Excellency in Council has no reason to believe that such offers have been as yet taken advantage of; but to prevent any chance of a misunderstanding on the subject, he desires to recall the attention of Political Officers to the orders conveyed in the above-quoted Circular, which should be held to apply throughout the Presidency, whether in Native States or British territory.

2. The Governor in Council also takes this opportunity of warning Political Officers that commission agents employed by Native States in Bombay have no status which Government can recognise, and that they should not be recognised as having any by Political Officers either inside or outside of Bombay City.